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Identical letters dated 9 August 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to draw your attention to the following:

The representatives of the Syrian regime persist in abusing the platform provided by the United Nations to divert the international community's attention from its systematic crimes against humanity and mass atrocities. It has attempted to distort and falsify the facts and hold the international community responsible for its own failed criminal and irresponsible policies. It has attempted to apply the term "terrorist", firstly, on the Syrian people, who took to the streets in a peaceful popular revolution, and, secondly, on those States that have supported the rights of the Syrian people and have condemned the horrific and heinous crimes against them. As part of these efforts, it has sent several letters, the most recent of which was dated 6 July 2016 (S/2016/594), containing an assortment of lies against my country.

The State of Qatar categorically rejects all the claims made in the letters of the representative of the Syrian regime and reiterates the following facts:

- Terrorism has emerged, grown and spread in Syria as a result of the Syrian regime's terrorist policies and brutal attacks on the Syrian people and because it cooperates with terrorist groups in order to ensure its own survival. The regime has followed a policy of murder, terrorism, siege of cities, air attacks on civilians, and destruction of schools, houses of worship, hospitals and medical facilities. It attacks medical personnel and humanitarian workers and obstructs the delivery of medical supplies to the sick and those in need. Those actions unequivocally demonstrate the terrorist nature of that regime and its contempt for all moral, humanitarian and legal standards.

- The State of Qatar strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, whatever its source, wherever it occurs, and whatever its goals, because it is one of the gravest threats to international peace and security. The State of Qatar also reiterates that all States must fight terrorism with all the means at their disposal in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and other obligations under international law, including international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international refugee law. The State of Qatar is committed to resisting this phenomenon and to supporting

regional and international efforts aimed at bringing about stability and security in the region and throughout the world.

- The principled position of the State of Qatar regarding the crisis in Syria stems from its commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and other international instruments that support the right of peoples to self-determination and a life of dignity and that protect and promote human rights. Its position is also based on the Charter of the United Nations, the relevant resolutions of the League of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the United Nations and its various bodies. It stems from commitment of Qatar to a peaceful solution to the conflict and its total rejection of crimes against humanity, war crimes and other grave violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.

- The State of Qatar reaffirms its support for a political solution to the crisis in Syria based on the Geneva Communiqué of 30 June 2012 and the establishment of a transitional governing body with full executive powers that meets the Syrian people's aspirations while preserving the national and territorial unity of Syria and its independence and sovereignty. Because it believes in a political solution, the State of Qatar has taken part in international meetings on the Syrian crisis beginning with the 2012 Geneva meeting, and is an active member of the International Syria Support Group.

- The State of Qatar reaffirms that it will continue to cooperate with the United Nations and the international community, in order to end the suffering of the Syrian people.

The State of Qatar once again calls on the United Nations, and the Security Council in particular, to take all measures necessary to protect Syrian civilians from crimes perpetrated by the Syrian regime, and to do everything necessary to hold accountable all those responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity, and ensure that the perpetrators do not escape punishment under the international justice system.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alya Ahmed Saif **Al-Thani**
Permanent Representative